

II. REMARKS/ CONCLUSION

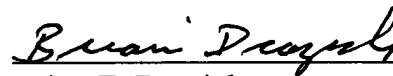
Allowed claim 26 has been canceled and claim 31 has been amended.

For all of the above reasons, it is believed that all of the pending claims, specifically, claims 25, 28-45, of the above-identified patent application are now in condition for allowance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required by this paper to Deposit Account No. 50-1215. Please show our reference number with any charge or credit to our Deposit Account.

Date: February 11, 2004

Respectfully submitted,



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